

**HOUSE BILL 1247**  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Unofficial Copy  
B1  
SB 245/01 - B&T

2004 Regular Session  
4lr1624  
CF 4lr0697

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By: **Delegates Branch, Anderson, Barkley, Barve, Benson, Bobo, Bohanan, Bozman, Bromwell, Bronrott, Brown, Burns, Busch, Cadden, Cane, Cardin, Carter, G. Clagett, V. Clagett, Conroy, Conway, C. Davis, D. Davis, DeBoy, Donoghue, Doory, Feldman, Franchot, Frush, Gaines, Goldwater, Goodwin, Gordon, Griffith, Gutierrez, Hammen, Harrison, Haynes, Healey, Heller, Hixson, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, Hurson, James, Jameson, Jones, Kaiser, Kelley, King, Kirk, Krysiak, Lee, Love, Madaleno, Malone, Mandel, Marriott, McHale, McIntosh, Menes, Mitchell, Moe, Montgomery, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Paige, Parker, Patterson, Pendergrass, Proctor, Quinter, Ramirez, Rosenberg, Ross, Rudolph, Simmons, Sophocleus, Stern, Taylor, F. Turner, V. Turner, Vallario, Vaughn, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004  
Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Budget - Budget Process**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the General Assembly to increase or add Executive  
4 Department items in the budget bill, subject to a certain limitation; providing  
5 for the veto of certain budget bill items; providing for the reversion to original  
6 appropriations of certain vetoed items in the budget bill; providing that certain  
7 vetoed items in the budget bill shall be void; authorizing an extraordinary  
8 session of the General Assembly if the Governor vetoes any budget bill item;  
9 providing a mechanism by which the President of the Senate and the Speaker of  
10 the House of Delegates may convene a certain extraordinary session;  
11 authorizing the General Assembly to override budget bill item vetoes;  
12 establishing the manner in which and the time at which budget bill items  
13 become law; clarifying certain language; and submitting this amendment to the  
14 qualified voters of the State of Maryland for their adoption or rejection.

15 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
16 Article II - Executive Department  
17 Section 17

18 BY proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution  
19 Article III - Legislative Department  
20 Section 14 and 52(6)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, (Three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses  
3 concurring), That it be proposed that the Maryland Constitution read as follows:

4 **Article II - Executive Department**

5 17.

6 (a) To guard against hasty or partial legislation and encroachment of the  
7 Legislative Department upon the co-ordinate Executive and Judicial Departments,  
8 every Bill passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate, before it becomes a law,  
9 shall be presented to the Governor of the State. If the Governor approves [he] THE  
10 BILL, THE GOVERNOR shall sign it[, but if not he]. EXCEPT FOR THE BUDGET BILL, IF  
11 THE GOVERNOR DISAPPROVES THE BILL, THE GOVERNOR shall return it with [his]  
12 objections to the House in which it originated, which House shall enter the objections  
13 at large on its Journal and proceed to reconsider the Bill. Each House may adopt by  
14 rule a veto calendar procedure that permits Bills that are to be reconsidered to be  
15 read and voted upon as a single group. The members of each House shall be afforded  
16 reasonable notice of the Bills to be placed on each veto calendar. Upon the objection of  
17 a member, any Bill shall be removed from the veto calendar. If, after such  
18 reconsideration, three-fifths of the members elected to that House pass the Bill, it  
19 shall be sent with the objections to the other House, by which it shall likewise be  
20 reconsidered, and if it passes by three-fifths of the members elected to that House it  
21 shall become a law. The votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays,  
22 and the names of the persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the  
23 Journal of each House respectively.

24 (b) If any Bill presented to the Governor while the General Assembly is in  
25 session is not returned by [him] THE GOVERNOR with [his] objections within six  
26 days (Sundays excepted), the Bill shall be a law in like manner as if [he] THE  
27 GOVERNOR signed it, unless the General Assembly, by adjournment, prevents its  
28 return, in which case it shall not be a law.

29 (c) Any Bill presented to the Governor within six days (Sundays excepted),  
30 prior to adjournment of any session of the General Assembly, or after such  
31 adjournment, shall become law without the Governor's signature unless it is vetoed  
32 by the Governor within 30 days after its presentment.

33 (d) Any Bill, EXCEPT THE BUDGET BILL, vetoed by the Governor shall be  
34 returned to the House in which it originated immediately after the House has  
35 organized at the next regular or special session of the General Assembly, OTHER  
36 THAN AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CONVENED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS  
37 SECTION. The Bill may then be reconsidered according to the procedure specified in  
38 this section. Any Bill enacted over the veto of the Governor, or any Bill which shall  
39 become law as the result of the failure of the Governor to act within the time  
40 specified, shall take effect 30 days after the Governor's veto is over-ridden, or on the  
41 date specified in the Bill, whichever is later. If the Bill is an emergency measure, it  
42 shall take effect when enacted. No such vetoed Bill shall be returned to the

1 Legislature when a new General Assembly of Maryland has been elected and sworn  
2 since the passage of the vetoed Bill.

3 (e) [The] EXCEPT FOR THE BUDGET BILL, THE Governor shall have power to  
4 disapprove of any item or items of any Bills making appropriations of money  
5 embracing distinct items, and the part or parts of the Bill approved shall be the law,  
6 and the item or items of appropriations disapproved shall be void unless repassed  
7 according to the rules or limitations prescribed for the passage of other Bills over the  
8 Executive veto.

9 (F) THE GOVERNOR MAY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE ITEMS IN THE BUDGET  
10 BILL AS FOLLOWS:

11 (1) THE GOVERNOR MAY VETO ONLY ITEMS RELATING TO THE  
12 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT THAT HAVE BEEN INCREASED OR ADDED BY THE  
13 GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT VETO ANY OTHER ITEMS IN THE  
14 BILL.

15 (2) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM THAT HAD BEEN INCREASED BY  
16 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT OVERRIDE THE  
17 VETO UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THAT ITEM SHALL REVERT TO THE  
18 APPROPRIATION ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THE ORIGINAL  
19 APPROPRIATION SHALL THEN BE LAW IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY  
20 THE GOVERNOR.

21 (3) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM THAT HAD BEEN ADDED BY THE  
22 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT OVERRIDE THE VETO  
23 UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THAT ITEM SHALL BE VOID.

24 (4) ITEMS NOT DISAPPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL BE LAW  
25 IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR.

26 (G) (1) IF THE GOVERNOR VETOES AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL, THE  
27 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION WITHIN 30 DAYS  
28 AFTER THE DATE OF THE VETO TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE VETO. IF  
29 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WISHES TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE  
30 GOVERNOR'S VETO OF AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
31 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES JOINTLY SHALL ISSUE A  
32 PROCLAMATION SPECIFYING THE DATE ON WHICH TO CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY  
33 SESSION.

34 (2) THE SOLE PURPOSE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION UNDER THIS  
35 SUBSECTION SHALL BE TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S  
36 VETO OF AN ITEM IN THE BUDGET BILL. IN SUCH SESSION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
37 MAY NOT CONSIDER THE OVERRIDE OF THE GOVERNOR'S VETO OF ANY OTHER BILL.

38 (3) (I) THE BUDGET BILL SHALL BE RETURNED BY THE GOVERNOR TO  
39 THE HOUSE IN WHICH IT ORIGINATED, AND EACH VETOED ITEM SHALL BE  
40 CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY.

1 (II) IF THREE-FIFTHS OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THAT HOUSE  
2 VOTE TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OF AN ITEM, IT SHALL BE SENT TO THE OTHER HOUSE  
3 FOR CONSIDERATION.

4 (III) IF THREE-FIFTHS OF THE OTHER HOUSE VOTE TO OVERRIDE  
5 THE VETO OF THE ITEM, THAT ITEM SHALL REVERT TO THE APPROPRIATION  
6 ORIGINALLY PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE APPROPRIATION AS  
7 ORIGINALLY PASSED SHALL THEN BECOME LAW IMMEDIATELY, WITHOUT FURTHER  
8 ACTION BY THE GOVERNOR OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

9 **Article III - Legislative Department**

10 14.

11 The General Assembly shall meet on the second Wednesday of January,  
12 nineteen hundred and seventy-one, and on the same day in every year thereafter, and  
13 at no other time, unless convened BY JOINT PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF  
14 THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES UNDER SECTION  
15 17(G) OF ARTICLE II OF THIS CONSTITUTION OR by Proclamation of the Governor. [A]  
16 THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE A Proclamation convening the General Assembly in  
17 extraordinary session [must be issued by the Governor] if a majority of the members  
18 elected to the Senate and a majority of the members elected to the House of Delegates  
19 join in a petition to the Governor requesting that [he] THE GOVERNOR convene the  
20 General Assembly in extraordinary session, and the Governor shall convene the  
21 General Assembly on the date specified in the petition. This section does not affect the  
22 Governor's power to convene the General Assembly in extraordinary session pursuant  
23 to Section 16 of Article II of this Constitution.

24 52.

25 (6) The General Assembly shall not amend the Budget Bill so as to affect  
26 either the obligations of the State under Section 34 of Article III of the Constitution,  
27 or the provisions made by the laws of the State for the establishment and  
28 maintenance of a system of public schools or the payment of any salaries required to  
29 be paid by the State of Maryland by the Constitution [thereof; and the]. THE General  
30 Assembly may amend the bill by increasing or diminishing [the] items therein  
31 relating to the General Assembly, [and] by increasing or diminishing [the] items  
32 therein relating to the judiciary, [but except as hereinbefore specified, may not alter  
33 the said bill except to strike out or reduce items therein, provided, however, that the]  
34 AND BY INCREASING, DIMINISHING, OR ADDING ITEMS RELATING TO THE  
35 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT AS LONG AS THE TOTAL OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
36 EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES NOT  
37 EXCEED THE TOTAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT SUBMITTED BY  
38 THE GOVERNOR. THE salary or compensation of any public officer [shall] MAY not be  
39 decreased during his term of office[; and such bill, when and as passed by both  
40 Houses, shall be a law immediately without further action by the Governor]. WHEN  
41 PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES, THE BILL SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR FOR  
42 APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL ACCORDING TO SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE II OF THE  
43 CONSTITUTION.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly  
2 determines that the amendment to the Maryland Constitution proposed by this Act  
3 affects multiple jurisdictions and that the provisions of Article XIV, § 1 of the  
4 Maryland Constitution concerning local approval of constitutional amendments do  
5 not apply.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the foregoing section  
7 proposed as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution shall be submitted to the  
8 legal and qualified voters of this State at the next general election to be held in  
9 November, 2004 for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of directions contained in  
10 Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution. At that general election, the vote on this  
11 proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot  
12 there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against  
13 the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law. Immediately after the  
14 election, all returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against the  
15 proposed amendment, as directed by Article XIV of the Maryland Constitution, and  
16 further proceedings had in accordance with Article XIV.